

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claim 30 based on a lack of antecedent basis for the term “the brace”. The Examiner also noted the incorrect wording “system for system” in claim 30. By this response, claim 30 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for all claim terms and to delete the incorrect recitation of “system for system”.

Claims 2, 13, 14, 20, 22, 28 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC§102(b) as being anticipated by Lawrence US Patent 2,603,249. Claim 31 was rejected under 35 USC§103(a) as being unpatentable over Samejima et al US Patent 6, 516, 597. Claims 3-11, 21, 23, 26, 27 and 29 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter, with an indication that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

By this response, the claims have been amended to define over the prior art.

The Lawrence patent discloses a power saw assembly for a tractor, having upper and lower pairs of links 30, 32, respectively, which are connected to an inner vertical bar 26. The outer ends of the links 30, 32 are mounted to an outer vertical bar 28. A pair of vertically spaced journals 48 are mounted to outer vertical bar 28, and rotatably support a saw shaft 52, to which a saw blade 54 is mounted. With this construction, the saw blade 54 can be moved up and down by pivoting movement of the links 30, 32. However, the saw shaft 50 is in a fixed position relative to the outer vertical bar 28, and relative to the linkage defined by links 30, 32.

Claim 2 has been amended to state that the vertical pivot member defines a vertical pivot axis. Claim 2 also properly states that the accessory is interconnected with the vertical pivot member so as to be suspended from the ground and supported solely by the linkage arrangement. Claim 2 is amended to state that the accessory defines a working end spaced outwardly from the vertical pivot and movable about the vertical pivot axis. Claim 2 further states that the accessory is movable between a first position and a second position

relative to the linkage arrangement. Claim 2 states that the working end of the accessory is located on a first side of the linkage arrangement when the accessory is in the first position, and is located on a second side of the linkage arrangement, opposite the first side, when the accessory is in the second position.

The Lawrence patent does not show or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 2. As noted above, while the Lawrence patent shows a linkage assembly that is operable to move a saw between raised and lowered positions, the position of the saw relative to the linkage is fixed. This construction functions to severely limit the range of the saw relative to the vehicle. In direct contrast, the present invention as defined in claim 2 provides an accessory mounting arrangement that enables the working end of the accessory to be moved throughout a wide range of positions relative to the vehicle. Specifically, the movement of the accessory about the vertical pivot axis between opposite sides of the linkage arrangement provides a significant advantage in the range of movement of the accessory over the construction of Lawrence.

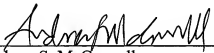
In view of the fact that Lawrence does not show or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 2, it is believed that claim 2 patentably defines over the Lawrence reference. A review of the remaining references of records similarly fails to show or suggest the subject matter of amended claim 2, and accordingly claim 2 is believed allowable. Claims 3-11, 20, 21 and 26 depended directly or indirectly from claim 2, and are believed allowable for the above reasons as well as a view of the subject matter of each claim.

Claim 13 has been amended along these same lines as amended claim 2. For the reasons noted above with respect to claim 2, it is thus believed that claim 13 also patentably defines over Lawrence as well as the remaining references of record, and is allowable. Claims 14, 22, 23 and 28-31 depend directly or indirectly from claim 13, and are thus also believed allowable.

Applicant's attorney has made every effort to place the application into condition for allowance with claims 2-11, 13, 14, 20-23, and 26-3, and such action is earnestly requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned by phone if questions remain after consideration of this response, or if such would otherwise facilitate prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Andrew S. McConnell
Reg. No. 32,272

Boyle, Fredrickson, Newholm,
Stein & Gratz, S.C.
250 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1030
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 225-9755
Customer No.: 23598